

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION
(Release No. 34-51688; File No. SR-NASD-2005-053)

May 12, 2005

Self-Regulatory Organizations; National Association of Securities Dealers, Inc.; Notice of Filing and Immediate Effectiveness of Proposed Rule Change to Delay Implementation Date of Revisions to the Series 4 Examination Program

Pursuant to Section 19(b)(1) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (“Act”)¹ and Rule 19b-4 thereunder,² notice is hereby given that on April 18, 2005, the National Association of Securities Dealers, Inc. (“NASD”) filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission (“SEC” or “Commission”) the proposed rule change as described in Items I, II, and III below, which Items have been prepared by NASD. NASD has designated the proposed rule change as one constituting a stated policy, practice, or interpretation with respect to the meaning, administration, or enforcement of an existing rule of NASD pursuant to Section 19(b)(3)(A)(i) of the Act³ and Rule 19b-4(f)(1) thereunder,⁴ which renders the proposal effective upon filing with the Commission. The Commission is publishing this notice to solicit comments on the proposed rule change from interested persons.

I. Self-Regulatory Organization's Statement of the Terms of Substance of the Proposed Rule Change

NASD proposes to delay until no later than November 30, 2005 the implementation date of the recent revisions to the Limited Principal – Registered Options (Series 4) examination program, including the study outline and selection specifications (the “Series 4 Examination”).

¹ 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(1).

² 17 CFR 240.19b-4.

³ 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(3)(A)(i).

⁴ 17 CFR 240.19b-4(f)(1).

NASD is not proposing any textual changes to the By-Laws, Schedules to the By-Laws, or Rules of NASD.

II. Self-Regulatory Organization's Statement of the Purpose of, and Statutory Basis for, the Proposed Rule Change

In its filing with the Commission, NASD included statements concerning the purpose of and basis for the proposed rule change. The text of these statements may be examined at the places specified in Item IV below. NASD has prepared summaries, set forth in Sections A, B, and C below, of the most significant aspects of such statements.

A. Self-Regulatory Organization's Statement of the Purpose of, and Statutory Basis for, the Proposed Rule Change

1. Purpose

On February 9, 2005, NASD filed with the SEC for immediate effectiveness revisions to the Series 4 Examination.⁵ The Series 4 Examination is an industry-wide examination that qualifies an individual to function as a Registered Options Principal. The Series 4 Examination is shared by NASD and the following SROs: the American Stock Exchange LLC (“Amex”), the Chicago Board Options Exchange, Incorporated, the New York Stock Exchange, Inc., the Pacific Exchange, Inc. (“PCX”), and the Philadelphia Stock Exchange, Inc. Amex and PCX filed with the SEC similar revisions to the Series 4 Examination.⁶ NASD originally had proposed to implement the Series 4 Examination revisions by no later than April 29, 2005. However, due to administrative issues, NASD is proposing to delay until no later than November 30, 2005 the implementation date of the revisions. NASD will announce the revisions to the Series 4

⁵ See Securities Exchange Act Release No. 51216 (February 16, 2005), 70 FR 8866 (February 23, 2005) (SR-NASD-2005-025).

⁶ See Securities Exchange Act Release No. 51688 (May 12, 2005) (SR-Amex-2005-039); SR-PCX-2005-51.

Examination and the implementation date in a Notice to Members to be published no later than October 31, 2005.

NASD understands that Amex and PCX also will file with the SEC similar proposed rule changes to delay until no later than November 30, 2005 the implementation date of the revisions to the Series 4 Examination.

2. Statutory Basis

NASD believes that the proposed rule change is consistent with the provisions of Sections 15A(b)(6)⁷ and 15A(g)(3) of the Act,⁸ which authorize NASD to prescribe standards of training, experience, and competence for persons associated with NASD members.

B. Self-Regulatory Organization's Statement on Burden on Competition

NASD does not believe that the proposed rule change will result in any burden on competition that is not necessary or appropriate in furtherance of the purposes of the Act, as amended.

C. Self-Regulatory Organization's Statement on Comments on the Proposed Rule Change Received from Members, Participants, or Others

Written comments were neither solicited nor received.

III. Date of Effectiveness of the Proposed Rule Change and Timing for Commission Action

The proposed rule change has become effective pursuant to Section 19(b)(3)(A)(i) of the Act⁹ and Rule 19b-4(f)(1) thereunder,¹⁰ in that the proposed rule change constitutes a stated

⁷ 15 U.S.C. 78o-3(b)(6).

⁸ 15 U.S.C. 78o-3(g)(3).

⁹ 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(3)(A)(i).

¹⁰ 17 CFR 240.19b-4(f)(1).

policy, practice, or interpretation with respect to the meaning, administration, or enforcement of an existing rule of NASD. NASD proposes to implement the Series 4 Examination revisions by no later than November 30, 2005. NASD will announce the revisions to the Series 4 Examination and the implementation date in a Notice to Members to be published no later than October 31, 2005.

At any time within 60 days of the filing of the proposed rule change, the Commission may summarily abrogate such rule change if it appears to the Commission that such action is necessary or appropriate in the public interest, for the protection of investors, or otherwise in furtherance of the purposes of the Act.

IV. Solicitation of Comments

Interested persons are invited to submit written data, views and arguments concerning the foregoing, including whether the proposed rule change is consistent with the Act. Comments may be submitted by any of the following methods:

Electronic comments:

- Use the Commission's Internet comment form (<http://www.sec.gov/rules/sro.shtml>); or
- Send an e-mail to rule-comments@sec.gov. Please include File Number SR-NASD-2005-053 on the subject line.

Paper comments:

- Send paper comments in triplicate to Jonathan G. Katz, Secretary, Securities and Exchange Commission, 450 Fifth Street, NW, Washington, DC 20549-0609.

All submissions should refer to File Number SR-NASD-2005-053. This file number should be included on the subject line if e-mail is used. To help the Commission process and review your comments more efficiently, please use only one method. The Commission will post all

comments on the Commission's Internet Web site (<http://www.sec.gov/rules/sro.shtml>). Copies of the submission, all subsequent amendments, all written statements with respect to the proposed rule change that are filed with the Commission, and all written communications relating to the proposed rule change between the Commission and any person, other than those that may be withheld from the public in accordance with the provisions of 5 U.S.C. 552, will be available for inspection and copying at the principal office of NASD. All comments received will be posted without change; the Commission does not edit personal identifying information from submissions. You should submit only information that you wish to make available publicly. All submissions should refer to the File Number SR-NASD-2005-053 and should be submitted on or before [insert date 21 days from publication in the Federal Register].

For the Commission, by the Division of Market Regulation, pursuant to delegated authority.¹¹

J. Lynn Taylor
Assistant Secretary

¹¹ 17 CFR 200.30-3(a)(12).